

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0972

S E C R E T TAIPEI 6100

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, TW

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON ROC'S NUCLEAR INTENTIONS

REFS: (A) TAIPEI 6096, (B) STATE 219733, (C) STATE 213296,  
(D) 73 TAPEI 7051

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR MADE FORMAL DEMARCHE CONVEYING  
USG POSITION (AS PER PARAGRAPH 4, REFERENCE B) ON ROC'S NUCLEAR  
INTENTIONS ORALLY TO ROC FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN CH'ANG-HUAN AT  
1600 ON 7 SEPTEMBER 1976 SHEN DID NOT PROVIDE AN IMMEDIATE  
OFFICIAL RESPONSE. HE AGREED TO RESPOND TO OUR PRESENTATION  
AFTER REPORTING TO THE "SUPREME AUTHORITY", A PROBABLE REFER-  
ENCE TO PREMIER CHIANG. END SUMMARY.

2. IN HIS MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN CH'ANG-HUAN ON  
SEPTEMBER 7, 1976, THE AMBASSADOR PRESENTED A FORMAL DEMARCHE  
READING FROM PARAGRAPH 4 REFERENCE B, IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS. ON REACHING THE FIFTH POINT, DEAL-  
ING WITH A PREVIOUS DEMARCHE OF 20 NOVEMBER NEDFJ J PA PROVIDED  
SHEN WITH BACKGROUND INFORMATION TAKEN FROM PARAGRAPHS 2-4 OF  
REFERENCE D. AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS PRESENTATION THE AMBAS-  
SADOR STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE THE USG PLACES ON NUCLEAR NON-  
PROLIFERATION, INCLUDING THE SPREAD OF NATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL  
REPROCESSING EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY. AND HE REQUESTED A  
REAFFIRMATION OF GROC ASSURANCES CONCERNING REPROCESSING AND  
NON-PROLIFERATION BE PROVIDED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING (DATE  
UNDECIDED).

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3. SHEN RESPONDED THAT WHILE THE USG POSITION WAS "QUITE CLEAR", HE WOULD LIKE TO BE SURE THAT WE WERE NOT CURRENTLY CONCERNED WITH THE SMALL-SCALE LABORATORY REPROCESSING WHICH WAS BEING REQUESTED BY THE CAEC (SUBJECT OF REFERENCE C.). HE STATED THAT THIS OPERATION WAS NOT A SECRET, AND THAT IT WOULD ONLY PRODUCE MINUTE QUANTITIES OF MATERIAL - ENOUGH TO MAKE A BOMB "EVERY 430 YEARS". THE AMBASSADOR ASSURED HIM THAT THIS WAS NOT REPEAT NOT THE ISSUE AT HAND. OUR CONCERN WAS THAT WE HAD LEARNED FROM EUROPE THAT INER HAD BEEN MAKING INQUIRIES REGARDING ACQUISITION OF REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT. AND WE WERE NOT ABLE TO RECONCILE THIS INFORMATION WITH PREVIOUS GROC ASSURANCES ON THE SUBJECT.

4. SHEN STATED THAT ACCORDING TO HIS RECOLLECTION, IN 1973 THE USG WAS OF THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GROC HAD MADE A POLICY DECISION TO ACQUIRE A LARGE-SCALE CHEMICAL REPROCESSING CAPABILITY. IN FACT, THIS WAS NOT THE CASE. CHINESE "SCIENTISTS" ENGAGED IN REPROCESSING RESEARCH HAD ATTEMPTED TO ACQUIRE THIS CAPABILITY THROUGH COMMUNICATION WITH SUPPLIERS IN GERMANY AND FRANCE. BUT ONCE OFFICIALS OF THE U.S. MISSION HAD BROUGHT THIS SITUATION TO HIS (SHEN'S) ATTENTION, AND ONCE HE HAD CONSULTED WITH THE "SUPREME AUTHORITY" (PROBABLE REFERENCE TO PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO), THE GROC WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE ASSURANCES THAT THEY WOULD NOT CONSIDER THIS SCALE OF REPROCESSING. SHEN THEN EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THERE HAD BEEN OPEN COMMUNICATION AND COMPLETE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE CAEC, TAIPOWER AND OFFICIALS OF THE U.S. MISSION SINCE 1973. HE ASKED IF CHINESE SCIENTISTS WERE AGAIN MAKING INQUIRIES WITH REGARD TO REPROCESSING EITHER TO "U.S. AUTHORITIES" OR TO "INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS" IN EUROPE.

5. THE AMBASSADOR REITERATED THAT IT IS CLEAR INER HAS BEEN MAKING INQUIRIES IN EUROPE REGARDING THE ACQUISITION OF REPROCESSING TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE CURRENT SITUATION WAS "VERY SIMILAR" TO THAT WHICH AROSE IN 1973, AND THAT IT DID NOT RELATE TO SMALL-SCALE LABORATORY REPROCESSING. THE AMBASSADOR REPEATED HIS REQUEST THAT THE GROC REAFFIRM OR OTHERWISE PRESENT ITS ASSURANCES WITH REGARD TO REPROCESSING AND NON-PROLIFERATION, AFTER REPORTING HIS (THE AMBASSADOR'S) REMARKS TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES. AT THIS POINT SHEN STATED

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THAT THE USG POSITION WAS CLEAR, AND HE AGREED TO ARRANGE ANOTHER MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR TO CONVEY AN OFFICIAL GROC RESPONSE.

6. COMMENT: THE MEETING, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN MOFA, WAS CORDIAL. SHEN DID NOT PROVIDE A RESPONSE TO THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS DURING THE MEETING, NOR DID HE SUGGEST WHAT THE GROC RESPONSE MIGHT BE. HIS COMMENTS WERE IN THE NATURE OF QUESTIONS TO

CLARIFY THE USG POSITION. HE SEEMED CONCERNED THAT HE BE SURE OF THE SCALE OF REPROCESSING WE WERE TALKING ABOUT, I.E., SMALL-SCALE LABORATORY-SIZE OR LARGE-SCALE PLANT-SIZE. HE ALSO SEEMED INTERESTED TO KNOW JUST WHAT THE INFORMATION FROM EUROPE MIGHT BE, AND HOW IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN OBTAINED. HIS EXPLANATION OF THE SITUATION IN 1973, WHERE HE DREW A LINE BETWEEN OFFICIAL GROC POLICY REGARDING REPROCESSING AND THE WORK OF SO-CALLED CHINESE "SCIENTISTS", APPEARS TO BE A NEW ONE. HE CAREFULLY PRESENTED IT ON TWO OCCASIONS DURING THE MEETING, AND IT MAY BE THE CONTEMPLATED GROC 'ESCAPE-HATCH' SHOULD THE SITUATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ROC REACH AN IMPASSE ON THE REPROCESSING ISSUE. THE ONLY OTHER CHINESE OFFICIAL PRESENT DURING THE MEETING WAS CHU CHIN-K'ANG, DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, MOFA. EMBASSY ECONOMIC OFFICER ROBERT SIMMONS ACCOMPANIED THE AMBASSADOR. UNGER

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